

Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Saturday - 17 October 1953

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1. I lunched with John Adams, General Counsel of the Department of the Army, and Army Secretary Stevens, and was brought up to date on the testimony of the past week before the Senate Permanent Subcommittee investigating the alleged espionage rings at the Signal Corps installation at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. In connection with the alleged mystery witness who had agreed to "tell all", the only major testimony which he changed was his previous denial that a fellow employee was a Communist. As far as can be presently determined, he has not testified to any great espionage ring at Monmouth. In connection with the refugee German "scientist" who is supposed to have seen Signal Corps equipment in East Germany prior to his defection, the defector in question is a 22 year old mechanic with 3 or 4 months of trade school experience behind him where he undoubtedly saw Lend-Lease equipment with the "Evans Laboratory, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey" label on it. This individual has fairly well repudiated his original interrogation which appears in paragraph 9 of ATI Report 1004-52, dated 25 June 1952. While doubtless the Fifth Amendment cases piling up in these hearings indicate the earlier operation of an espionage ring at Monmouth, the majority of the persons involved have long since been fired, and no new evidence of present activities has been adduced as yet. The employees whom Secretary Stevens has suspended are all guilty of minor security questions, with no evidence of espionage. The Army hopes that Senator McCarthy will shortly issue some generalized statement and turn the whole matter back to the Department of the Army to handle, thus getting him "off the hook" of sensationalism which has been aided by over-playing by the press.

Army review(s)
completed.